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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,972	02/14/2002	Tomokazu Murakami	H-1026	4933

7590 04/10/2007
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EXAMINER

JOO, JOSHUA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/10/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/073,972

Applicant(s)

MURAKAMI ET AL.

Examiner

Joshua Joo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

Response to Amendment dated 2/13/2007

1. Claims 10-25 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. New ground(s) of rejection are necessitated by Applicant's amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 10, 12, 15, 17-19, 21, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abrahams US Publication #2002/0120934 (Abrahams hereinafter), in view of Zernik et al. US Publication #2002/0038299 (Zernik hereinafter).

5. As per claims 10, 17, and 19, Abrahams teaches substantially the invention as claimed including a method and system for providing information across a computer network, Abraham's teachings comprising:

an information registering device which includes a positioning device and a sending unit, said positioning device indicating a desired object in said displayed image, and said sending unit sending a first identification information containing an object information relevant to said indicated desired object, a first keyword information and a first reference information relevant to said content rendered by media to

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said computer network (fig. 3-4; Paragraphs 0058-0061. Generate program selection information and determine selectable objects in the program or scene. Paragraphs 0047-0048. Selection information includes keyword, identification and reference.);

an information viewing device that displays an image of content rendered by said media and sends object selection information (Paragraph 0046. Viewer sees object of interest.); and

a database that links said first identification information, said first keyword information and said first reference information received from said information registering device through said computer network, and stores said linked information (Paragraphs 0056; 0058. Database can be external device and accessed by a web server. figs. 3-5; Paragraphs 0048-0050; 0055. Program selection information is similar to selection information, and stored in a database. Program selection information that comprises identification (counter, coordinates), keywords ("sony walkman"), and reference information (url links));

wherein database performs a first matching process to match said first keyword information from said information registering device and object selection from said information viewing device; and sends at least one of said first identification information and said first reference information linked to said first keyword information according to the result of said first matching process to said computer network (Paragraph 0025. Database for storing related content. Paragraphs 0049-0050; 0053; 0062. Identify and match selected object. Display program selection information and related links to viewer.); and

said information viewing device displays said at least one of said first identification information and said first reference information from said database (Paragraphs 0049-0050; 0053. Display selection information and related links.).

6. Abrahams teaches substantial features of the claimed invention including program selection information comprising a set of information including "program name" and additional information related to the selection information such as "Sony Walkman", i.e. examples of first keyword information; and Abrahams teaches of a person or producer determining program selection information and identifying

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objects in a video program (Paragraphs 0059-0061). However, Abrahams does not specifically teach of a first keyword information entered by a user; and an information registering device which displays an image of content rendered by a media.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the person or producer (user) taught by Abrahams can enter the first keyword information, i.e. "program name" or "Sony Walkman" in the database, which would allow the person or producer to customize and provide unique information for display to the viewer, and use the information for matching with other information in the program selection information. Furthermore, since a person can identify objects in a video program, i.e. content, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to display an image of the content to visually identify objects of the video program and determine coordinates for the objects.

7. Abrahams also does not specifically teach of sending a second keyword information entered by another user to said computer network, and matching the first and second keyword information.

Zernik teaches of an interactive television system, wherein a viewer can enter search query in the form of text (second keyword information) to the Internet (computer network) (Paragraphs 0040; 0076) and match the query to keywords on a web page (Paragraph 0063).

8. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Abrahams and Zernik for the viewer to enter a search query, send the search query to the Internet, and match the query to keywords, which would allow the viewer to conveniently retrieve additional information regarding a program (Paragraph 0076).

9. As per claim 18, Abrahams teaches substantially the invention as claimed including a method for providing information across a computer network, Abraham's teaching comprising:

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displaying an image of content rendered by a media (Paragraph 0046. Viewer sees object of interest.);

making inquiry a media information regarding to said displayed image of content of said media to an information search device that is connected to said computer network (Paragraph 0046. Select object of interest.);

receiving and displaying a keyword information regarding to said media information searched by said information search device (fig. 3; Paragraphs 0049-0050. Display link with object.);

sending an identification information containing an object information relevant to a desired object indicated from said displayed image, a first keyword information selected in said displayed keyword information and a reference information relevant to said content rendered by media through said computer network (figs. 3-5; Paragraphs 0048-0050; 0055. Program selection information is similar to selection information, and stored in a database. Program selection information that comprises identification (counter, coordinates), keywords ("sony walkman"), and reference information (url links));

linking said sent identification information, said first keyword information and said reference information in said information search device (Paragraphs 0047-0050; 0055. Object is identified with keyword, identification, and reference information);

storing said linked information in information search device (Paragraphs 0025; 0048; 0055. Database for storing related content. Paragraphs 0056; 0058. Database can be external device and accessed by a web server.);

searching the stored keyword information corresponding to a "object selection information" sent from an information terminal (Paragraphs 0047-0049; 0053; 0062. Search keyword information related to selected object.);

providing at least one of said identification information and said reference information linked to the searched keyword information from said information search device to said information terminal

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through said computer network, when said there is a keyword information corresponding to said second information (Paragraphs 0049-0050; 0053. Display selection information and related links.).

10. Abrahams teaches of program selection information comprising a set of information including “program name” and additional information related to the selection information including “Sony Walkman”, i.e. examples of first keyword information. Abrahams also teaches of a person or producer determining program selection information and identifying objects in a video program (Paragraphs 0059-0060), but Abrahams does not specifically teach of a first keyword information entered by a user. However, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the person or producer (user) taught by Abrahams can enter the first keyword information, i.e. “program name” or “Sony Walkman” in the database, which would allow the person or producer to customize and provide unique information for the viewer, and use the information for matching with objects.

11. Abrahams also does not specifically teach of searching keyword information corresponding to a second keyword information, which is entered by another user, sent through said computer network in said information search terminal.

Zernik teaches of an interactive television system, wherein a viewer can enter search query in the form of text to the Internet (computer network) (Paragraphs 0040; 0076) and matching the query to keywords on a web page (Paragraph 0063).

12. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Abrahams and Zernik for the viewer to enter a search query, send the search query to the Internet, and match the query to keywords, which would allow the viewer to conveniently retrieve additional information regarding a program (Paragraph 0076).

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13. As per claims 12 and 21, Abrahams teaches the system for providing information as recited in claim 10, wherein said database further receives second identification information from said information viewing device (Paragraphs 0046-0047. Object selection.), and said database further performs a second matching process to match said first identification information from said information registering device and said second identification information from said information viewing, and sends said first reference information linked to said first identification information and said first keyword information according to a result of said second matching process to said information viewing device through said computer network (Fig. 3-4; Paragraphs 0049-0050. Provides URL links and keyword, e.g Sony Walkman.).

14. As per claims 15 and 24, Abrahams teaches the system for providing information as recited in claim 10, wherein said database comprises:

a keyword table which has at least an ID field for uniquely identifying a record entry and a keyword field to contain the first keyword, wherein one record entry includes at least its ID and a keyword (Figs. 3-4; Paragraphs 0049-0050; 0053. Keyword corresponds to program selection information and related links.);

a reference information table which has at least an ID field for uniquely identifying a record entry, a reference information field containing the first reference information, and a keyword ID field to containing the keyword ID associated with the reference information, wherein one record entry includes at least its ID, reference information, and the associated keyword ID (Paragraph 0049-0050; 0053. Links correspond to keyword objects.);

a target image object table which has at least an ID field for uniquely identifying a record entry, a time and frame field containing information to identify media information, and an link ID field containing the ID of reference information linked with the object, wherein one record entry includes at least its ID, media information, and the ID of reference information linked with the object (Paragraph 0047; 0050;

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0053. Selection information comprises time and frame information. Identification information is linked with related links.).

15. Claims 11, 16, 20, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abrahams and Zernik, in view of Arsenault et al, US Patent #6,925,650 (Arsenault hereinafter).

16. As per claims 11 and 20, Abrahams does not specifically teach the system for providing information, wherein said database sends a stored keyword list prior to receiving said second keyword information from said information viewing device in response to inquiry made from said information viewing device.

Arsenault teaches of sending a stored keyword list prior to receiving a second keyword from the viewer in response to inquiry made from the viewer (col. 11, line 64 – col. 12, line 11; col. 16, lines 55-65; col. 17, lines 11-31).

17. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Abrahams, Zernik, and Arsenault to send a stored keyword list prior to receiving a second keyword from the viewer in response to inquiry made from the viewer. Arsenault's teachings would enhance the user-friendliness of the system by allowing the viewer to efficiently select possible keywords to identify objects of interest.

18. As per claims 16 and 25, Abrahams teaches the system for providing information, wherein: said content rendered by media-is video image information distributed by TV broadcasting (paragraph 0025; 0057. TV broadcast.); said first keyword information includes at least any of a keyword, keyword ID number, keyword type, specified time length, time when the keyword was registered, and a number of times the keyword has been selected as user preference (fig. 3-4; paragraph 0049. Keyword.); and said

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reference information includes a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) that designates a Web site/page on the Internet (paragraphs 0050; 0053. URL.). However, Abrahams does not specifically teach said first identification information further includes at least any of a broadcasting channel over which the content was or will be broadcasted, receiving area, specified time length.

Arsenault teaches of identification information comprising of broadcasting channel and time length (col. 8, lines 18-34; col. 15, lines 35-58).

19. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Abrahams, Zernik, and Arsenault for identification information to comprise broadcasting channel and time length, which would by provide the viewer with additional information related to the content of interest.

20. Claims 13 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abrahams and Zernik, in view of Wu et al, US Patent #6,326,982 (Wu hereinafter).

21. As per claims 13 and 22, Abraham teaches of sending said first reference information linked to said first identification information and said first keyword information according to a result of said third matching process to said information viewing device through said computer network (Fig. 3-4; Paragraphs 0049-0050.). Abrahams does not specifically teach wherein said database further receives second reference information from said information viewing device; said database further performs a third matching process to match URLs or comments respectively included in the first and second reference information

Wu teaches of matching URLs associated with television programming and providing information related to the URLs (Abstract; col. 2, lines 52-65; col. 7, lines 21-40).

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22. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Abrahams, Arsenault, and Wu to match URLs and provide information related to URLs, which would provide alternative methods for viewers to identify and receive information regarding objects of interest, and in this case, accessing predetermined web pages through URL matching.

23. Claims 14 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abrahams and Zernik, in view of Rekimoto, US Patent #6,636,249 (Rekimoto hereinafter).

24. As per claims 14 and 23, Abrahams and Zernik taught the system for providing information as recited in claim 10, wherein said first matching process in said database has a process for determining: whether one keyword from the first keyword information and the other keyword from the second keyword information match or are duplicates. However, Abrahams does not specifically teach whether time length associated with the first keyword information and time length associated with the second keyword information match or are duplicates in addition to determining whether one keyword from the first keyword information and the other keyword from the second keyword information match or are duplicates; or whether a time when the first keyword information was registered falls within a time length associated with the second keyword information in addition to determining whether one keyword from the first keyword information and the other keyword from the second keyword information match or are duplicates.

Rekimoto teaches of searching and matching keywords based on time length from the first and second keyword information (col. 20, line 66 – col. 21, line 11).

25. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Abrahams, Zernik, and Rekimoto to provide matching keywords based on the

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keyword and time length because both Abrahams and Zernik deal with identify objects in a television program. Rekimoto's teachings would enhance the system of Abraham and Zernik by providing additional matching criteria, which would provide results that are more accurate and specific to viewers' requests.

Conclusion

26. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

27. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

28. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua Joo whose telephone number is 571 272-3966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 7 to 4.


29. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on 571 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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30. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 29, 2007

JJ



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